

## **SECTION-BY-SECTION SUMMARY OF THE EARLY CAREER RESEARCH ACT**

### **SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE**

“Early Career Research Act.”

### **SEC. 2. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION EARLY CAREER AWARDS FOR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESEARCHERS**

Authorizes the Director of the National Science Foundation to carry out a program to award grants to scientists and engineers at the early stage of their careers at institutions of higher education and research institutions. Allows the existing Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program to be designated as the mechanism for awarding such grants. Sets the duration of the awards to be 5 years and the amount per year to be at least \$80,000. Eligible applicants are tenure-track faculty at institutions of higher education or the equivalent at research organizations, such as observatories. Requires the award recipients to be selected on a merit-reviewed and competitive basis, based on the intellectual merit of the proposed work; the innovative or transformative nature of the proposed research; the extent to which the proposal integrates research and education, including undergraduate education in science and engineering disciplines; and the potential of the applicant for leadership at the frontiers of knowledge. Requires the Director to allocate at least 3.5 percent of funds appropriated for Research and Related Activities to the grants program under this section.

Requires the Director to provide to Congress within 6 months a report describing the distribution of the institutions of the Faculty Early Career Development Program awardees since fiscal year 2001 among different types of institutions (e.g. research universities, community colleges, etc.). Requires the Director to provide to Congress within 2 years a report evaluating the impact of the Faculty Early Career Development Program on the ability of young faculty to compete for National Science Foundation research grants.

### **SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY EARLY CAREER AWARDS FOR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESEARCHERS**

Authorizes the Under Secretary for Science of the Department of Energy to carry out a program to award grants to scientists and engineers at the early stage of their careers at institutions of higher education and research institutions. Sets the duration of the awards to be up to 5 years and the amount per year to be at least \$80,000. Eligible applicants are tenure-track faculty at institutions of higher education or the equivalent at research organizations, such as observatories. Requires the award recipients to be selected on a merit-reviewed and competitive basis, based on the intellectual merit of the proposed work; the innovative or transformative nature of the proposed research; the extent to which the proposal integrates research and education, including undergraduate education in science and engineering disciplines; and the potential of the applicant for leadership at the frontiers of knowledge. Requires the Under Secretary to give priority to proposals in which the proposed work includes collaboration with the Department of Energy

National Laboratories. Authorizes appropriations for the program of \$25,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2007 through 2011.

Requires the Secretary of Energy to provide to Congress within 3 months a report on efforts to recruit and retain young scientists and engineers at the early stages of their careers at the Department of Energy National Laboratories. The report shall include a description of incentives for recruitment and retention, an evaluation of the effectiveness of the incentives, a description of barriers to recruitment and retention, and the amount and source of funding devoted to recruitment and retention efforts.

#### **SEC. 4. REPORT ON NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY EFFORTS TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN EARLY CAREER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESEARCHERS**

Requires the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to provide to Congress within 3 months a report on efforts to recruit and retain young scientists and engineers at the early stages of their careers at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The report shall include a description of incentives for recruitment and retention, an evaluation of the effectiveness of the incentives, a description of barriers to recruitment and retention, and the amount and source of funding devoted to recruitment and retention efforts.

#### **SEC. 5. DEFINITION**

Defines “Institution of Higher Education.”